(a) and (b). On 14th December, 1988, the Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi, had released foreign exchange worth US $ 900 to Shri Abhaya Chhajalani, Editor, Hindi Nai Dunia of Indore for his five days trip to China to cover the Prime Minister of India's visit to that country.

Finalisation of textile policy report by Abid Hussain Committee

1948. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Maharashtra Government to nationalise sick textile mills and if so, what are the names of the mills;

(b) whether the State Government has finally taken decision to permit sick mills to sell extra land and invest money for modernisation; and

(c) whether the Abid Hussain Committee has finalised the report on review of Textile Policy and if so, what are its conclusions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The Central Government has so far received a revised viability study from the Maharashtra Government on the revival/nationalisation of Khandesh Spinning and Weaving Mills Limited, Jalgaon. A modified proposal on the revival/nationalisation of Sreenivas Mills Limited is awaited.

(b) The State Government has not communicated any such decision to the Central Government.

(c) No, Sir.

News item captioned "Sinking Rupee should be our worry"

1949. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMA-RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen the article in the Sunday Observer of 4th June, 1989 captioned "Sinking rupee should be our worry" and if so, what is Government's reaction to the various questions raised in the article;

(b) whether the recent Aid India Consortium meeting at Paris has agreed to finance $ 6.7 billion which is short of India's expectation and if so, what are the alternate measures and what is the amount of soft loan out of $ 6.7 billion; and

(c) what are the observations of the World Bank on increased deficit and foreign currency reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The sense of alarm expressed in the article is not borne out by facts. In 1988-89 while real GDP growth is provisionally estimated to have been of the order of 9 per cent, the inflation rate was contained at no more than 5.7 per cent. The budgetary deficit in 1988-89, as a proportion of GDP is estimated to have been around 1.5 per cent. Similar price trends are continuing during the current year also.

(b) At the recent Aid India Consortium meeting, aid pledges of about US $ 6.7 billion were indicated for 1989-90, which is higher than US 6.3 billion pledged last year. The terms and conditions of the aid will be known only after aid negotiations are finalised with each donor agency during the course of the year.

(c) At the meeting the members expressed appreciation of the progress achieved by the Government in reducing